

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 51

By Person

RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Foster D. Arnett, Sr. of  
Knoxville.

WHEREAS, It was with sadness and a sense of loss that this General Assembly learned of the passing of Foster Deaver Arnett, Sr., a distinguished trial attorney who had practiced law in Knoxville for more than fifty years; and

WHEREAS, The son of the late Foster Greenwood Arnett and Edna Deaver Arnett, he was educated in the public schools of Knoxville before entering the University of Tennessee in 1939; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnett interrupted his education in 1942, when he volunteered to proudly serve his country as an officer in the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, He served as a Commissioned Officer in the 511<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, and was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry In Action against the enemy in Leyte, Philippine Islands in 1944; he also received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for combat-incurred wounds; and

WHEREAS, After many years of courageous and dedicated service, Foster D. Arnett retired from the United States Army Reserve with the rank of Lt. Colonel; and

WHEREAS, When his military tour of duty concluded in 1946, Mr. Arnett returned to the University of Tennessee and earned a Bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, He earned the admiration and respect of his fellow students and professors alike during his tenure at UT-K and achieved many honors and accolades; and

WHEREAS, He was a Torchbearer and served astutely as Editor-in-Chief of *The Volunteer*, he was also a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity and the first recipient of its Kreis Memorial Award; and

WHEREAS, He attended law school at the University of Virginia, receiving his law degree in 1948; at Charlottesville, he served as Secretary of his class and was a member of the Raven Society; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. Arnett recalled with fondness his college and law school days and evinced an endearing loyalty to both his alma maters; and

WHEREAS, He ably served as President of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association, Chairman of Annual Giving, and President of the University of Virginia Law School Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, The founding member of the respected law firm of Arnett, Draper and Hagood, Mr. Arnett was a gifted practitioner and dedicated servant of the legal profession, and he was honored many times during his long and distinguished career spent in service to justice and equity under the law; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnett served with distinction as President of both the Knoxville Bar Association and the Tennessee Bar Association, and received the former organization's high honor, The Governor's Award; and

WHEREAS, His uncommon skill as a trial lawyer was recognized by the American College of Trial Lawyers, which claimed him as a Fellow, and by the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, which he served as Dean and President; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnett was also a valuable member of the International Association of Defense Counsel; Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel; American Academy of Hospital Attorneys; American Inns of Court, Hamilton S. Burnett Chapter; The International Society of Barristers; and The United States Supreme Court Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, He was a life member of the American Bar Foundation and a charter member of the Tennessee Bar Foundation; he served as the first President of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his remarkable career in the law, Mr. Arnett also served the Knoxville community with unswerving devotion; and

WHEREAS, He provided astute leadership to the Knox Children's Foundation, East Tennessee Hearing and Speech Center, Knoxville Teen Center and *News-Sentinel* Charities, and each of these worthy organizations benefited greatly from his acumen and generosity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Arnett was also active in the Republican Party and was a delegate to its 1964 National Convention; and

WHEREAS, This gifted attorney and exemplary public servant is survived by his wife, Jean Medlin Arnett; his daughter, Melissa Arnett Campbell; his son, Foster Deaver Arnett, Jr.; and three grandchildren Ransom, Hunter, and Crayton Campbell; and

WHEREAS, The lives of Mr. Arnett's family, colleagues and friends were enriched by his wisdom, his humanity and the great joy he took in people and in his profession; and

WHEREAS, With his passing, the law has lost an outstanding advocate and the Knoxville community an extraordinary citizen; and

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate that we should celebrate the life of this distinguished gentleman; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Foster Deaver Arnett, Sr., of Knoxville, as we pay tribute to his great ability and integrity as an attorney and his life spent in service to his profession, his universities, and his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. Arnett's family, and to his firm, Arnett, Draper and Hagood of Knoxville, with this final clause omitted from both copies.

